

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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R 081410Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4296

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.9. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: KAPUUNO INVEIGHS AGAINST SWAPO

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN STATEMENT REPORTED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS JANUARY 8, CHIEF CLEMENS KAPUUNO, CHIEF OF THE HEREROS AND A LEADER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION (NNC), HAS ASSERTED THAT THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLES' ORGANIZATION (SWAPO), WHICH RESIGNED ITS MEMBERSHIP IN NNC LAST MONTH, REPRESENTS ONLY OVAMBOS. HE IMPLIED THAT OWAMBO SHOULD SEEK SEPARATE INDEPENDENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. REPLYING TO SWAPO CRITICISMS OF HIMSELF AND NNC, CHIEF KAPUUNO CHARGED THAT BY RESIGNING FROM NNC, SWAPO HAD PROVED IT NOT WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER BLACKS IN NAMIBIA. HE SAID TRIBES OF SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL SWA HAD FOUGHT COLONIAL

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WARS AGAINST GERMANS AND HAD SUFFERED UNDER GERMAN AND

SOUTH AFRICAN RULE FOR MORE THAN 70 YEARS, LOSING MUCH OF THEIR LAND IN THE PROCESS. OVAMBOS HAD NOT, HE SAID, BEEN INVOLVED IN THE STRUGGLE AND ITS HOMELAND HAD REMAINED INTACT. THE OTHER NAMIBIAN BLACKS WOULD NOT ALLOW THEIR FUTURE TO BE DECIDED BY SWAPO, WHICH CONSISTS PREDOMINANTLY OF OVAMBOS. SWAPO SHOULD "WORK OUT ITS OWN FUTURE ON THE OVAMBO LANDS NEAR THE ANGOLAN BORDER," KAPUUO STATED.

3. STATEMENT COMES ON EVE OF NEXT WEEK'S ELECTION IN OWAMBO. SWAPO HAS BEEN AGITATING FOR ELECTION BOYCOTT. OVAMBO POLICEMEN BROKE UP SWAPO MEETING AT OLUNO JANUARY 5 BUT OTHER SWAPO PUBLIC MEETINGS IN AND OUTSIDE OWAMBO HAVE TAKEN PLACE PEACEFULLY. AS YET THERE IS NO RELIABLE INDICATION OF HOW SUCCESSFUL BOYCOTT WILL BE, BUT SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS HAVE MAINTAINED THAT THERE WILL BE A GOOD VOTER TURNOUT AND THAT SUCCESSFUL BOYCOTT OF OVAMBO ELECTION IN AUGUST 1973 WILL NOT BE REPEATED.

4. COMMENT: KAPUUO'S STATEMENT SHOULD PLEASE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES. IT GIVES WEIGHT TO THEIR CONTENTION THAT SWAPO IS NOT TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF PEOPLE OF SWA. IT ALSO INDICATES CONTINUED DISUNITY OF NAMIBIAN BLACKS WHICH PLAYS INTO HANDS OF WHITE RULERS OF THE TERRITORY. SOUTH AFRICANS SHOULD BE PLEASED, MOREOVER, BECAUSE KEY ELEMENT IN THEIR HOPE TO ESTABLISH A CONFEDERATION IN NAMIBIA HAS BEEN THAT OWAMBO WOULD EITHER GO ITS OWN WAY AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION OR, FAILING THIS, WOULD REMAIN AS PART OF NAMIBIA BUT WITHOUT POLITICAL POWER COMMENSURATE WITH FACT THAT OVAMBOS NUMBER ALMOST HALF OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THE TERRITORY. HURD

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